

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 222248Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1772

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

AMCONSUL MERIDA

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

AMCONSUL TIJUANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 4253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJ: MISSION MONTHLY NARCOTICS REVIEW FOR APRIL, 1974

REF: MEXICO 3462

DIA FOR AA-7

1. SUMMARY: APRIL MARKED A PERIOD OF RELATIVE CALM, COMPARED TO THE UNUSUALLY ACTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE MONTH PREVIOUS. THE EMBASSY SENT TO WASHINGTON ITS EVALUATION OF THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM; "OPERATION SEAM" TERMINATED ITS ACTIVITY IN MEXICO WITH A NUMBER OF GOOD CASES, INCLUDING AN IMPORTANT LABORATORY SEIZURE; AND SEVERAL PRESS STATEMENTS HIGHLIGHTED MEXICAN CONCERN OVER THE INTERNAL DRUG DEPENDENCY PROBLEM. ON THE ENFORCEMENT SIDE, CONFIDENTIAL

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APRIL WAS DEVOID OF SPECTACULAR HITS BUT NONETHELESS ROLLED UP

A CREDITABLE RECORD. WHILE SEIZURES OF HEROIN AND COCAINE WERE DOWN COMPARED TO MARCH, OPIUM WAS UP BY AN IMPRESSIVE MAGNITUDE.

END SUMMARY

2. EMBASSY AND GOM ACTIVITIES

A. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS COORDINATOR (AMBASSADOR VANCE), AMBASSADOR JOVA AND THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE FORWARDED THEIR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE USG/GOM NARCOTICS PROGRAM AS IT IS NOW AND SHOULD IN THE FUTURE BE CONSTITUTED (SEE MEXICO 3462).

B. "OPERATION SEAM" FINISHED ITS FINAL MONTH BY SCORING SEVERAL SUCCESSES, AMONG THEM THE SEIZURES OF 10 OZ. OF HEROIN NEAR SAN LUIS, 1 1/4 TONS OF MARIJUANA AND 16 DEFENDANTS NEAR HERMOSILLO, 150 GM. HEROIN AND 127 GM. COCAINE IN MEXICALI, AND 5 KG. 300 GM. OF HEROIN IN MEXICALI (WHICH LED ALSO TO THE ARREST OF TWO DEFENDANTS IN CULIACAN). PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT WAS THE SEIZURE OF A LARGE HEROIN LABORATORY IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH-EAST SINALOA, NEAR THE CHIHUAHUA BORDER; ALSO TAKEN WERE 9 KG. OPIUM, 10 KG. MORPHINE BASE, 1.5 KG. HEROIN AND A VARIETY OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT. THE SEIZURE OF MORPHINE BASE IS SIGNIFICANT SINCE IT PROVES AN EXCEPTION TO THE COMMONLY-HELD BELIEF THAT THERE IS NO INTERMEDIATE STEP IN THE CONVERSION OF OPIUM GUM TO MEXICAN BROWN HEROIN. WE AWAIT WITH INTEREST THE PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL REPORT ON "OPERATION SEAM", WHICH WILL BE DONE IN WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH.

C. THE INTERNAL MEXICAN DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM RECEIVED A GOOD DEAL OF ATTENTION IN APRIL: (1) THE WIFE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (OLGA DE OJEDA PAULLADA), SPEAKING AT A REUNION OF HER LAW CLASS, NOTED THAT WHILE MEXICO DOES NOT YET HAVE AS SEVERE A PROBLEM AS SOME OTHER COUNTRIES THERE IS A TENDENCY FOR IT TO INCREASE ALARMINGLY, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING THE ABUSE OF MARIJUANA, PSYCHOTROPICS AND INHALANTS (SHE ALSO STRESSED MEXICAN CONCERN WITH THE LARGE EXPORT TRADE IN MARIJUANA AND MEXICAN-PRODUCED HEROIN); (2) IN A PRESS INTERVIEW DR. MAYORAL PARDO, ADVISOR OF THE MEXICAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SECURITY, POINTED UP THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN DRUG

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DEPENDENCY (INCLUDING ALCOHOL), BLAMED THE MASS MEDIA TO A LARGE EXTENT FOR ITS PROLIFERATION AND SUGGESTED THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE AMELIORATION OF THE PROBLEM LAY IN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS; (3) ALSO FAVORING THE EDUCATIONAL APPROACH BUT CAUTIONING AGAINST A MASS MEDIA DIFFUSION OF THE PROBLEM, WAS DR. MONTIEL MEJIA OF THE MEXICAN ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL MEDICINE; (4) DR. ARTURO CHEVAILI, PRESIDENT OF THE 7TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SCIENCES, CALLED FOR LEGISLATION TO MAKE LESS

AVAILABLE STIMULANTS AND INHALANTS, AND FOR MORE CAUTION ON THE PART OF PHYSICIANS PRESCRIBING DANGEROUS DRUGS; (5) IN MEXICALI THE POLICE CHIEF WARNED AGAINST YOUTHFUL DRUG ADDICTION AND CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF TREATMENT CLINICS; AND (6) AS THOUGH TO REINFORCE THESE COMMENTS, IT WAS REPORTED THAT A RING SELLING MARIJUANA TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HAD BEEN BROKEN IN MEXICO CITY AND A GROUP SELLING HEROIN TO ADDICTS HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN TIJUANA.

3. GOM ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES:

A. WITH US AUTHORITIES

IN ADDITION TO "OPERATION SEAM" CASES REPORTED ABOVE IN PARA 2 B, OTHER JOINT ACTIONS WERE:

500 GMS. HEROIN SEIZED, SIX PERSONS ARRESTED IN TIJUANA.

3.5 METRIC TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED NEAR HERMOSILLO.

643 GMS. HEROIN SEIZED NEAR HERMOSILLO.

2 KG. HEROIN, 3 DEFENDANTS SEIZED IN MONTERREY.

1. KG. COCAINE, 4 DEFENDANTS TAKEN IN TIJUANA.

2 KG. COCAINE AND 3 ARRESTED IN MEXICO CITY.

2 TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED IN MEXICALI.

B. INDEPENDENT MEXICAN OPERATIONS

3.8 KG. COCAINE SEIZED, ONE PERSON ARRESTED AT MEXICO CITY
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AIRPORT.

MEXICAN FEDERAL POLICE AND ARMY CAPTURED NARCOTICS RING IN SINALOA MOUNTAINS, AFTER FIREFIGHT IN WHICH 2 TRAFFICKERS KILLED.

ANOTHER SHOOTOUT WITH MARIJUANA TRAFFICKERS IN GUERRERO LEFT ONE TRAFFICKER DEAD.

1 TON OF MARIJUANA SEIZED IN NOGALES.

ONE FEDERAL POLICEMAN, ONE MUNICIPAL POLICE AGENT AND ONE SOLDIER WERE WOUNDED IN A FIREFIGHT WITH TRAFFICKERS IN MICHOCAN; ONE TRAFFICKER KILLED, 5 ARRESTED AND TWO TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED.

300 GMS. COCAINE SEIZED, TWO ARRESTED AT MEXICO CITY AIRPORT.

700 GM. HEROIN, 750 GM. COCAINE AND 14 FIREARMS SEIZED IN
TIJUANA; THREE ARRESTED.

MANY WEAPONS AND OVER 3,000 ROUNDS SEIZED AFTER FIREFIGHT
WITH 8 TRAFFICKERS IN SONORA.

600,000 AMPHETAMINES, 2.5 KG. COCAINE, AND 1 KG. HEROIN
SEIZED FROM MASTER BRICKLAYER IN SAN LUIS, RIO COLORADO.

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02 /139 W

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R 222248Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1773
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO
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AMCONSUL TIJUANA

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IN MONTERREY, 2.7 KG. HEROIN AND 1.5 TONS
MARIJUANA SEIZED FROM A RING HEADED BY A DURANGO POLICE
AGENT; 7 ARRESTD.

3 KG. OPIUM SEIZED, 5 ARRESTED IN SINALOA.

1/2 KG. OPIUM TAKEN IN TIJUANA.

3 TONS MARIJUANA SEIZED IN GUERRERO.

580 GMS. COCAINE SEIZED FROM USC AT MEXICO CITY AIRPORT.

2.25 KG. HEROIN TAKEN IN MEXICALI.

A SHOOTOUT WITH MARIJUANA TRAFFICKERS IN GUERRERO
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NETTED ONE TRAFFICKER DEAD, ONE FEDERAL AGENT WOUNDED;
5 ARRESTS'

C. MONTHLY WRAPUP (OFFICIAL GOM)

OPIUM

FIELDS DESTROYED	2,427
AREA IN SQUARE METERS	5,693,00 M 2
POPPY SEED	3 KG.
OPIUM GUM	72 KG.
HEROIN	15 KG.
COCAINE	10 KG.

AMPHETAMINES AND BARBITURATES

TABLETS SEIZED	602,000
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MARIJUANA

FIELDS DESTROYED	119
AREA IN SQUARE METERS	201,859 M2
MARIJUANA (DRY) SEIZED	52 TONS
SEED	169 KG.
AIRCRAFT SEIZED	6
AUTOMOBILES AND TRUCKS	90

ARRESTS

MEXICAN NATIONALS 304

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FOREIGNERS (MOSTLY US) 58.
DIKEOS

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